

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claim 21 as follows:

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21. (New) A method of producing a membrane module,  
comprising:

forming a blank seal having an inner opening and an outer  
surface, said inner opening being dimensioned to a finished size  
for enclosing an end of a ceramic filter element, said outer  
surface having an unprocessed dimension;

attaching said inner opening of said blank seal to a dummy  
holder, said dummy holder having an outer dimension that  
corresponds to an average outer dimension of a plurality of said  
ceramic filter elements;

processing said outer surface of said blank seal to a  
processed size while said blank seal is attached to said dummy  
holder to form a processed seal;

removing said processed seal from said dummy holder; and

attaching said processed seal to said end of said ceramic  
filter element.

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